

## BUDGET, FINANCE & INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

May 18, 2009

5:30 P.M.

Courthouse

### MINUTES:

#### Members Present:

Comm. Bob Bullen  
Comm. Joe Frank Jernigan  
Comm. Will Jordan  
Comm. Robert Peay, Jr.  
Comm. Steve Sandlin  
Comm. Doug Shafer  
Comm. Joyce Ealy, Chrm.

#### Others Present:

Ernest Burgess  
Lisa Nolen  
Eloise Gaither  
Judge Don Ash  
Judge David Bragg  
Judge David Loughry  
Judge Ben McFarlin  
Wanda Watkins  
Representatives from Volunteer Fire Departments and Rescue Squads

#### Others Present:

Mary Schneider  
John Bratcher  
Keith Siskin  
Bill Whitesell  
Leslie Collum  
Todd Savage  
Pam Fone  
Alan Miller

#### Others Present:

Lynn Duke  
Dana Blair  
Bobby Lawrence  
Roger Allen  
Truman Jones  
Regina Nelson  
Robert Asbury  
Elaine Short

Chairman Ealy presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. with Comm. Bullen being absent at that time. The purpose of the meeting was to continue the 2009-10 budget review for the General Fund.

### APPROVE MINUTES:

The minutes of the May 7, 2009 Budget Committee meeting were presented for approval. Chairman Ealy advised of a correction on Page Eight regarding the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application. The second sentence stated that the grant required a 25% match, but the correct percentage of local matching funds should have been 20%.

Comm. Sandlin moved, seconded by Comm. Shafer to approve the minutes of the May 7 Budget Committee meeting correcting the second sentence under the section regarding the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application on Page Eight to state that the grant required a 20% match. The motion passed by acclamation with Comm. Bullen being absent at that time.

### PROPERTY ASSESSOR:

The Finance Director advised of a revision that needed to be made to the 2009-10 Property Assessor's budget. She reported that the Property Assessor had received his certification, and therefore, would be receiving a \$1,000 supplement from the state. Account 101-52300-140, Salary Supplements, was increased from \$5,000 to \$6,000 along with the related benefits. The total 2009-10 Property Assessor's budget was increased from \$1,719,432 to \$1,720,632. The revenue in the General Fund would also be increased by \$1,000.

Comm. Sandlin moved, seconded by Comm. Peay to approve the revision to the 2009-10 Property Assessor's budget increasing Account 101-52300-140, Salary Supplements, from \$5,000 to \$6,000 along with the related benefits resulting in a total budget of \$1,720,632. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

### CIRCUIT COURT:

Mrs. Eloise Gaither, Circuit Court Clerk was present to answer questions regarding the 2009-10 Circuit Court budget. The County Mayor's recommendation totaled \$438,786, which was a reduction from the prior year of \$21,772. Mrs. Gaither advised that she accepted the County Mayor's recommendation.

Comm. Jernigan moved, seconded by Comm. Jordan to approve the 2009-10 Circuit Court budget totaling \$438,786 as recommended by the County Mayor. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

Comm. Shafer asked Mrs. Gaither if she would be giving her employees pay increases.

Mrs. Gaither advised that she would go along with what the county recommended.

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES:

Judge Don Ash and Judge David Bragg were present to answer questions regarding the 2009-10 Circuit Court Judges budget with the County Mayor's recommendation totaling \$233,978. Mayor Burgess advised that there was a small reduction in the budget from the previous year.

Comm. Bullen moved, seconded by Comm. Jernigan to approve the 2009-10 Circuit Court Judges' budget totaling \$233,978 as recommended by the County Mayor. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

GENERAL SESSIONS COURT:

Judges Ben McFarlin, David Loughry, and Mrs. Wanda Watkins were present to answer questions regarding the 2009-10 General Sessions Court budget with the County Mayor's recommendation totaling \$1,221,593.

Mayor Burgess advised that according to state law, the General Sessions Judges would be receiving a 3.8% salary increase. Mayor Burgess advised that the budget reflected a slight decrease in travel and office supplies and was approximately \$4,000 less than the previous year.

Comm. Sandlin moved, seconded by Comm. Peay to approve the 2009-10 General Sessions Court budget totaling \$1,221,593 as recommended. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

DRUG COURT:

Ms. Mary Schneider, Drug Court Coordinator, was present to answer questions regarding the 2009-10 Drug Court budget totaling \$441,055 as recommended by the County Mayor. The budget reflected a decrease of \$6,713 from the previous years.

Ms. Schneider advised that in the current year, the liability insurance for the Drug Court therapists was only \$300, and \$4,000 was budgeted. She requested that Account 101-53330-506, Liability Insurance, be reduced from \$4,000 to \$300, and she requested that Account 101-53330-307, Communications, be increased from \$4,000 to \$4,500. Ms. Schneider also requested that Account 101-53330-334, Maintenance Agreements, be increased from \$1,600 to \$2,000. The revised total was \$438,205.

Mayor Burgess suggested that Account 101-53330-334, Maintenance Agreements, remain at \$1,600, and if the account ran short, it could be amended next year.

The Finance Director recommended that Account 101-53330-506, Liability Insurance, be changed from \$300 to \$400 to allow for any potential increase.

The revised total for the 2009-10 Drug Court budget totaled \$437,905.

Comm. Jordan moved, seconded by Comm. Shafer to approve the 2009-10 Drug Court budget totaling \$437,905 as revised. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

CHANCERY COURT:

Mr. John Bratcher, Clerk & Master, was present to answer questions regarding the 2009-10 Chancery Court budget with the County Mayor's recommendation totaling \$792,601, which was a reduction from the prior year of \$10,513.

Comm. Bullen moved, seconded by Comm. Jernigan to approve the 2009-10 Chancery Court budget totaling \$792,601 as recommended. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

JUVENILE COURT:

Mr. Keith Siskin, Juvenile Court Referee, was present to answer questions regarding the 2009-10 Juvenile Court budget with the County Mayor's recommendation totaling \$449,434, which represented a reduction from the prior year of \$3,875.

Mayor Burgess advised that the Juvenile Court Judge's salary was linked to the General Sessions Court Judges; and therefore, reflected an increase of 3.8%.

Comm. Bullen moved, seconded by Comm. Jernigan to approve the 2009-10 Juvenile Court budget totaling \$449,434 as recommended. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL:

Mr. Bill Whitesell, District Attorney General, and Mrs. Leslie Collum were present to answer questions regarding the 2009-10 District Attorney General budget with the County Mayor's recommendation totaling \$65,433, which was a reduction from the prior year of \$910.

Comm. Bullen moved, seconded by Comm. Sandlin to approve the 2009-10 District Attorney General budget totaling \$65,433 as recommended. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENDER:

Chairman Ealy advised that the Public Defender was a new function in the General Fund budget. The total for the 2009-10 Office of Public Defender budget was \$20,600 as recommended by the County Mayor.

Mayor Burgess advised that there was a state requirement that the county had to provide funding for the Public Defender to support juvenile public defense cases at a rate of 75% of any local government funds spent for the District Attorney General. Technically, since the county is appropriating \$65,433 for the District Attorney that could be approximately \$49,000. Mayor Burgess advised that he has had some preliminary discussions with Gerald Melton, Public Defender, and offered funding of \$20,600. Mr. Melton has agreed to the funding of \$20,600 if he can get state permission to pool these funds with other funds that are available to him. If the state does not agree, the county could potentially have to fund approximately \$49,000 for the Public Defender to support juvenile public defense cases.

Following discussion, Comm. Bullen moved, seconded by Comm. Jernigan to approve the 2009-10 Office of Public Defender budget totaling \$20,600 as recommended by the County Mayor. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

YOUTH SERVICES:

Mr. Todd Savage, Assistant Youth Services Director, was present to answer questions regarding the 2009-10 Youth Services budget with the County Mayor's recommendation totaling \$851,511, which was an increase of \$3,787 over the prior year. The increase was attributed to the Employee Insurance Account.

Comm. Sandlin moved, seconded by Comm. Jordan to approve the 2009-10 Youth Services budget totaling \$851,511 as recommended. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

Ms. Pam Fone, Domestic Violence Coordinator, was present to answer questions regarding the 2009-10 Domestic Violence budget with the County Mayor's recommendation totaling \$163,256, which was an increase of \$5,583 over the prior year.

Mayor Burgess advised that the increase was due to increased funding in the Part Time Personnel Account. Mayor Burgess advised that the budget was funded with Victims' Assistance Assessment fees collected through the courts and from grants and not from property tax.

Comm. Jordan moved, seconded by Comm. Peay to approve the 2009-10 Domestic Violence budget totaling \$163,256 as recommended. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

TRAFFIC CONTROL:

The 2009-10 Traffic Control budget totaled \$20,000 as recommended by the County Mayor. Chairman Ealy advised that the budget funded maintenance and repair and utilities for traffic lights at Walter Hill, Almaville Road, SR-840 at the racetrack, and Compton Road.

Comm. Jernigan moved, seconded by Comm. Bullen to approve the 2009-10 Traffic Control budget totaling \$20,000 as recommended. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

CORRECTIONAL WORK CENTER:

Mr. Alan Miller, Correctional Work Center Superintendent, was present to answer questions regarding the 2009-10 Correctional Work Center budget with the County Mayor's recommendation being \$3,130,098, which was a reduction from the prior year of \$65,311.

Mayor Burgess advised that the Captain's position was currently vacant, and that when it was filled it would be at a lower level than the previous person. Account 101-54220-160, Guards, reflected a decrease of \$69,491. Mayor Burgess advised that in the current year budget, there were five positions funded for one-fourth year for the Community Sanctions program. He stated that he had not recommended that program for the coming year. Account 101-54220-162, Clerical Personnel, also reflected a decrease from \$116,106 to \$109,961 due to a clerical position for the Community Sanctions program that was not recommended.

Mayor Burgess requested that Account 101-54220-399, Other Contracted Services, be increased from \$543,230 to \$550,000, because the medical provider had advised of a three percent increase. The revised total for the 2009-10 Correctional Work Center budget was \$3,136,868.

Mr. Miller explained that the community sanctions portion of the building was built for a work release program. He stated that the county had probably invested about \$500,000 in that portion of the building, and it was not being used. He stated that he was not in conflict with the Mayor, and that he understood the crisis. He stated there was a crisis beyond that in trying to determine what to do with people who were crowding the jails. He stated there was about a 70% recidivism rate with people who have been arrested, served a sentence, go back into the community, and then get arrested again. With the work release program, Mr. Miller stated that he was trying to put programs in place and incentives in place to cut that number down. He stated if a work release program was implemented, it would be reviewed on an annual basis, as to whether or not the program would be continued. Mr. Miller stated that by implementing a work release program, it would take some emphasis off of what is paid through tax dollars and put it back on the inmates. The work release program would give the county the opportunity to capture the inmate's income and deposit it into the county's system, and distribute it to pay the court costs, the fees, the cost of operation to the system, and to pay family support. Mr. Miller stated that he believed the work release program was worthwhile, it was an important program, and he thought it needed to be funded. He asked the committee if they could not fund the program for a full year, to consider funding it for a partial year.

Mayor Burgess advised that the report that Mr. Miller referred to was not credible and did not say anything to support the program.

Following discussion, Comm. Jordan moved, seconded by Comm. Shafer to approve the 2009-10 Correctional Work Center budget totaling \$3,136,868 as revised. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

JUVENILE DETENTION:

Mrs. Lynn Duke, Juvenile Detention Center Director, was present to answer questions regarding the 2009-10 Juvenile Detention Center budget with the County Mayor's recommendation being \$1,769,123, which was an increase of \$12,123 over the prior year. The largest increase was to Account 101-54240-205, Employee and Dependent Insurance.

Comm. Jernigan moved, seconded by Comm. Sandlin to approve the 2009-10 Juvenile Detention Center budget totaling \$1,769,123 as recommended. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

RESCUE SQUADS & VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS:

Mr. Bobby Lawrence, President of the Rutherford County Chiefs Association, spoke on behalf of the rescue squads and the volunteer fire departments.

The County Mayor's recommendation for the Rutherford County Rescue Squad, Smyrna Rescue Squad and La Vergne Rescue Squad and for each of the 11 volunteer fire departments was \$28,500 each, which was a decrease from \$30,000 in the prior year.

Mayor Burgess advised that for the rescue squads, the volunteer fire departments, and all other non-profit organizations he had unilaterally recommended a five percent reduction. He stated that he had not singled out any group or organization.

Comm. Jordan stated that the county had requested that the volunteer fire departments increase their insurance, which was costing them more money.

Mayor Burgess advised that money had also been made available for the training facility at Kittrell, and money from the Homeland Security grant had been used to purchase radios for the fire departments.

Comm. Sandlin asked the mayor to reconsider, and he asked the Budget Committee to keep the funding for the rescue squads and the volunteer fire departments at the same level.

Mr. Lawrence stated that he understood the hard economic times, but it all boiled down to public safety. He stated that the county had requested them to add more insurance for their vehicles. He explained that since the insurance cost had increased, it would not be cutting \$1,500 from the budgets, it would be like cutting \$4,000 from the budgets. Mr. Lawrence explained that the economic times were also hurting the rescue squads and the fire departments, because their donations were down and their fund-raisers were being hurt. He asked the committee to reconsider the mayor's recommendation and keep the funding at \$30,000. Mr. Lawrence stated that 100% of the fire departments were going with the county's recommendation for their insurance.

Following discussion, Comm. Peay moved, seconded by Comm. Shafer to recommend funding for the rescue squads and the volunteer fire departments at the current level of \$30,000 each.

The Finance Director advised that would add \$21,000 to the General Fund budget.

Following discussion, the motion to recommend funding for the rescue squads and the volunteer fire departments at the current level of \$30,000 each passed unanimously by acclamation.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Mr. Roger Allen was present to answer questions regarding the 2009-10 Emergency Management budget with the County Mayor's recommendation totaling \$704,599, which was a reduction from the prior year of \$55,109.

Following discussion, Comm. Sandlin moved, seconded by Comm. Peay to approve the 2009-10 Emergency Management budget totaling \$704,599 as recommended. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:

Sheriff Truman Jones and Chief Deputy Regina Nelson were present to answer questions regarding the Sheriff Department's 2009-10 budget. The mayor's recommendation totaled \$16,995,908, which was a reduction of \$277,286 from the prior year.

Mayor Burgess advised that the Sheriff presented a budget to the Public Safety Committee that was \$150,000 less than the prior year's budget. After that meeting, Mayor Burgess identified four areas that he asked the Sheriff to make some further reductions. Sheriff Jones agreed to further reduce Account 101-54110-425, Gasoline, Account 101-54110-429, Instructional Supplies & Materials, Account 101-54110-435, Office Supplies, and Account 101-54110-453, Vehicle Parts.

Comm. Jernigan moved, seconded by Comm. Peay to approve the County Mayor's recommendation for the Sheriff Department's 2009-10 budget totaling \$16,995,908.

Mayor Burgess advised that the Sheriff's budget included one new SRO for the new Brown's Chapel Elementary School.

Sheriff Jones advised that there would be another new SRO position, but it would be funded in the school's budget.

The committee discussed the COPS grant that the Sheriff's Department was applying for. It was noted that if the grant was awarded there would be very little cost to the county this year.

Following discussion, the motion to approve the County Mayor's recommendation for the Sheriff's Department 2009-10 budget totaling \$16,995,908 passed unanimously by acclamation.

SPECIAL PATROLS:

The County Mayor's recommendation for the 2009-10 Special Patrols budget totaled \$57,166.

Chairman Ealy advised that this budget funded the Priest Lake patrol, and was funded with federal money with the county being reimbursed from the Corps of Engineers.

Comm. Peay moved, seconded by Comm. Jordan to approve the 2009-10 Special Patrols budget as recommended by the County Mayor totaling \$57,166. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

ADMINISTRATION OF SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY:

The County Mayor's recommendation for the 2009-10 Sex Offender Registry budget totaled \$7,100.

Sheriff Jones advised that the Sheriff's Department had to keep a registry of all of the sex offenders and know where they were.

The Finance Director advised that the budget included about \$4,000 in revenue that was specifically for this program, and there were also funds in reserve to cover the program.

Comm. Jernigan moved, seconded by Comm. Shafer to approve the County Mayor's recommendation for the 2009-10 Administration of Sex Offender Registry totaling \$7,100. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

JAIL:

The County Mayor's recommendation for the 2009-10 Jail budget totaled \$12,505,215, which was a reduction from the prior year of \$42,518. Mayor Burgess advised that the Sheriff and Major Asbury had presented a very workable budget. He advised that the only account that he had asked them to reconsider was Account 101-54210-354, Transportation Other Than Students, which was reduced to \$50,000. The account funds expenses related to extradition.

Comm. Jernigan moved, seconded by Comm. Bullen to approve the 2009-10 Jail budget totaling \$12,505,215 as recommended by the County Mayor. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

DRUG CONTROL:

The Finance Director advised that the estimated revenue for the 2009-10 Drug Control Fund totaled \$628,000 with estimated expenditures totaling \$854,133. The expenditures exceeded the revenue by \$226,133. The estimated beginning fund balance on July 1, 2009 was \$960,000, and the estimated ending fund balance at June 30, 2010 was \$733,867.

Sheriff Jones advised that the ICE officers take most of the cases through the Federal Government as opposed to the State. He advised that the amounts of money collected by the Narcotics Officers were reflected in this fund.

Following review, Comm. Jordan moved, seconded by Comm. Sandlin to approve the 2009-10 Drug Control Fund as recommended with estimated revenue totaling \$628,000, estimated expenditures totaling \$854,133, and the projected ending fund balance at June 30, 2010 being \$733,867. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Shafer asked if the Finance Department could determine how much the county had to spend on certain items as mandated by the Federal Government and the State.

Chairman Ealy reminded the committee of the next meeting on Tuesday, May 19 at 5:30 P.M. There being no further business to be presented at this time, Chairman Ealy declared the meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

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Elaine Short, Secretary